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13 September 1967

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ON 1/23/89 #164541
per CIA letter 4/23/88.

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT : Garrison and the Kennedy Assassination -
Comment on Playboy Interview

1. The most extensive single statement of Garrison's views about the assassination of President Kennedy appears in an interview published in the October 1967 issue of Playboy. The preliminary comment and interview cover the equivalent of slightly more than twenty pages, three columns to the page: a total of ca 27,000 words.
2. Garrison has cast CIA in the role of opponent and villain, both in the assassination and in his opinions about corruption in government, and he hammers at this theme constantly. The twenty pages of the article contain 122 explicit references to CIA. Most of them are derogatory.
3. The fact that Garrison's charges against CIA are false, like most of his charges against other elements of the federal government as well as many private citizens, does not mean that when he goes to court his case will collapse like a house of cards. Garrison has not yet exposed his hand and will not do so before the trial.
4. The essentials of the Garrison version of the Kennedy assassination and his unsubstantiated charges against the Agency are as follows:
 - a. Oswald was a CIA agent well before he went to the U.S.S.R., while still in the Marines. His seemingly pro-Communist attitude and activities were merely cover;

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Section 403g
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Section 403g
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he was actually anti-Castro and an anti-Communist. Although he was one of the conspirators, he was unaware that at higher levels of the conspiracy he had been selected as the "patsy", the innocent man who would be made the scapegoat.

b. "Throughout the late summer and fall of 1963, Lee Oswald was shepherded in Dallas and New Orleans by a CIA 'babysitter', who watched over Oswald's activities and stayed with him. My office knows who he is and what he looks like . . . When Oswald went to Mexico City . . . this CIA agent accompanied him!"

c. ". . . Oswald was virtually surrounded by White Russians in Dallas, some of whom were CIA employees."

d. Oswald did not fire a shot at President Kennedy, Officer J. D. Tippit, or anyone else on 22 November 1963.

e. Clay Shaw was a central figure in the conspiracy.

f. So was David Ferrie, who was also paid by CIA to train Cuban exile groups "and to fly counterrevolutionary secret missions to Cuba"

g. Jack Ruby, also a key member of the conspiracy, worked for CIA as a "bag man". He was paid by CIA to "smuggle arms for Cuban exile groups."

h. President Kennedy was shot by a group of at least seven marksmen, some of them American right-wing fanatics and others anti-Castro Cubans. They fired from the grassy knoll, the Dal-Tex Building, and the Book Depository. They fired frangible bullets, ". . . issued by CIA for use in anti-Castro-exile raids on Cuba." A number of these men "were former employees of the CIA involved in its anti-Castro underground activities in and around New Orleans."

TIME SD, USC,
Section 4039
per
CIA

i. CIA has a record of lying: Guzman in Guatemala, Mossadegh in Iran, the revolt against Sukarno, the U-2, the Bay of Pigs, etc.

j. "In the New Orleans area, where the conspiracy was hatched, the CIA was training a mixed bag of Minutemen, Cuban exiles, and other adventurers north of Lake Pontchartrain for a foray into Cuba and an assassination attempt on Fidel Castro."

k. While President Kennedy was striving to reach a detente with Castro, CIA kept fanning the hopes of the anti-Castro exiles. In the late summer of 1963, however, President Kennedy forced CIA to stop giving money to the exiles. They then decided to kill Kennedy instead of Castro.

l. ~~Donald P. Norton~~ (whom Garrison identified clearly, though not by name) was formerly a CIA courier. As such he met both Ferrie and Oswald in 1963, when both were associated with CIA. Garrison intends to put Norton on the stand as a witness.

m. Gordon Novel was a paid CIA employee. In 1961 he raided a munitions bunker in Houma, Louisiana, on CIA orders. He also worked in New Orleans for the Evergreen Advertising Agency, a CIA front.

n. The Warren Commission reached all the wrong conclusions because ". . . CIA lied to the Commission right down the line. . . ." CIA also manufactured false evidence.

o. "Most of the attorneys for the hostile witnesses and defendants were hired by the CIA - through one or another of its covers."

p. ". . . the CIA has behaved like a cross between the Gestapo and the NKVD. . . ."

3
Ti He SO, USC,
Section 403g
per
CIA

q. "In a very real and terrifying sense, our Government is the CIA and the Pentagon, with Congress reduced to a debating society. . . . I've learned enough about the machinations of the CIA in the past year to know that this is no longer the dreamworld America I once believed in. . . . the awesome power of the CIA and the defense establishment. . . seem destined to seal the fate of . . . America"

6. District Attorney Garrison has not approached CIA in New Orleans, Washington, or elsewhere. He has extended no amenities and sought no consultation. As early as 5 May 1967 New Orleans newspapers reported the allegation that CIA had "a deep involvement. . . among certain principals of the DA's continuing inquiry". By 8 May 1967 Garrison was calling for a Senate investigation of the Agency. His allegations that CIA has tried to block his investigation are obviously false, and he knows it. In brief, there is reason to conclude that Garrison had made up his mind to attack the Agency either before or shortly after the case was first publicized.

7. Finally, Garrison and his attack upon CIA are not going to go quietly away whatever the outcome of the Shaw trial. He seems to have every intention of making a career of the case. The Playboy interview ends with these words: "If it takes me 30 years to nail every one of the assassins, then I will continue this investigation for 30 years. I owe that not only to Jack Kennedy but to my country."